

REMARKS:

An abstract has been added, the specification has been amended to correct formatting errors and the claims have been amended to conform to US practice.

In addition, new claims 14 to 28 have been added, of which claims 14 and 15 recite subject matter deleted from claims 9 and 10. New claims 16 to 28 are fully based on the original disclosure in the specification, notably the description of the system as depicted in Fig. 1 and its operation, starting on page 6 line 19 and ending on page 11 line 27. The term "depressurizing chamber" is based on page 8 lines 20-21, where it is stated that the sluice vessel 22 is employed as a depressurizing chamber. It follows from these lines that "depressurizing chamber" is a term that encompasses "sluice vessel" but is broader than that.

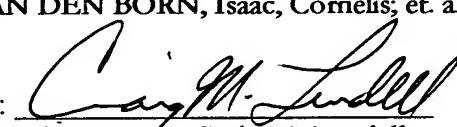
Although basis for new claims 16 to 28 is provided with reference to Fig. 1, these claims are not limited to the embodiment of Fig. 1. Support in more general terms is provided on page 4 line 31 to page 5 line 16. Moreover, starting on page 11 line 28 alternative embodiments are explicitly described.

No new matter has been added in any of the amendments. If it would be considered helpful in resolving any issues in the case, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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